

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kim *et al.* (US/6,717,209). In response, Applicants have amended the claims.

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 112 and § 102 rejections with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, Applicants have amended claim 1.

Regarding claim 1, the allegedly indefinite sections of original claim 1 have been deleted. The newly added element “an electrically conductive strap” of claim 1 is supported by the strap 129b of FIG. 1B of the application. Therefore, claim 1 is not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Regarding claims 2-6, 8, and 10, because claim 1 is not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claims 2-6, 8, and 10 are also not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kim *et al.* (US/6,717,209).

Regarding claim 1, Applicants respectfully contend that Kim does not anticipate claim 1, because Kim does not teach each and every feature of claim 1. For example, Kim does not teach “an electrically conductive wire;... first and second semiconductor regions being electrically coupled to the electrically conductive wire... wherein the electrically conductive wire does **not** electrically couple the first and second semiconductor regions together” of claim 1 (bold emphasis added).

More specifically, although Kim teaches in FIG. 8 an electrically conductive wire 222b that is electrically coupled to the first and second semiconductor regions 214 and 216, Kim fails to teach the feature of claim 1 that the electrically conductive wire 222b **does not** electrically couple the first and second semiconductor regions 214 and 216 together. In fact, in FIG. 8 of Kim, the electrically conductive wire 222b **does** electrically couple the first and second semiconductor regions 214 and 216 together, which is contrary to what is claimed in claim 1.

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that Kim does not anticipate claim 1, and that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 2-6, 8 and 10, since claims 2-6, 8 and 10 depend from claim 1, Applicants contend that claims 2-6, 8 and 10 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Moreover, regarding claim 3, Kim does not teach “wherein the electrically

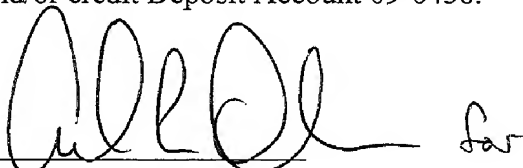
conductive strap comprises a silicide material, and wherein the electrically conductive strap is in direct physical contact with both the first and second semiconductor regions” of claim 3. Therefore, claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

In addition, regarding claim 10, Kim does not teach “an ionic solution which (i) is in direct physical contact with **the electrically conductive wire**, and (ii) is not in direct physical contact with **the electrically conductive strap**” of claim 10 (bold emphasis added). More specifically, it should be noted that the dummy metal pattern 222b of FIG. 8 of Kim cannot be used to teach both the electrically conductive wire and the electrically conductive strap of claim 1. Therefore, claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account 09-0456.

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